

Through a broad scope of activities, ASSE plays a special and vital role in helping SH&E professionals expand their competencies, enter new practice areas, more effectively serve their many constituents and become more involved with the public and their communities.

For nearly 100 years, ASSE has championed the SH&E profession and its member practitioners. Through a broad scope of activities, ASSE plays a special and vital role in helping SH&E professionals expand their competencies, enter new practice areas, more effectively serve their many constituents—from workers to business enterprises—and become more involved with the public and their communities.

To succeed in its mission, ASSE focuses its efforts and resources on several key areas that are essential to the success of a profession: a commitment to continuing education; a commitment to technical competence; and a commitment to developing and transmitting a specialized body of knowledge. Through these efforts, ASSE serves SH&E professionals, the profession and the public.

### Creating a Global Community

Through localized membership services, networking and educational events and meetings, ASSE provides its members with a global forum for sharing ideas and good practices, gaining knowledge and developing techniques to improve occupational safety and health around the world. Today, the Society has members in 78 countries and continues to extend its network across international borders to better connect SH&E professionals in their common goal of protecting people, property and the environment. As part of these efforts, the Society has increased its focus on international growth. Currently, ASSE has five chapters and two sections operating outside the U.S. and interest in additional international chapters is strong.

### Advancing the Professional Discourse

To help its members develop a shared understanding of and common language about the practice of safety, ASSE offers publications such as *Professional Safety*, the practice specialty and branch newsletters, the *Journal of SH&E Research*, the *CoPS SH&E Report*, and a growing library of consensus standards, technical books and business texts. These publications document and disseminate the profession's body of knowledge and keep members, prospective members and interested stakeholders informed of the latest developments in the practice of SH&E. They also give SH&E professionals respected, peer-guided forums in which to publish their ideas to gain professional recognition and enhance their professional standing.

The Society's practice specialties and branches also contribute to the continued development of the SH&E profession's body of knowledge. These groups provide a dedicated forum for members to share technical expertise, best practices and research.

ASSE furthers this professional discourse and development through its continuing education programs, which include an annual conference, seminars, webinars and symposia. By providing opportunities for members to hone their technical competence, pursue recognized certifications and build management skills, ASSE helps members raise their visibility and expand their influence beyond the traditional realm of SH&E. This, in turn, promotes their value within the business community and among legislators.

The efforts to publicize the business case for safety are enhanced by ASSE's Business of Safety Committee. This group has created a clearing house for articles, formal studies and research, corporate interviews

and related resources that provide members with the tools and knowledge they need to positively contribute to their organizations' business goals.

Ensuring that key stakeholders recognize and value the contributions of the occupational safety and health community is a primary goal of ASSE's professional and government affairs activities. ASSE's Code of Professional Conduct clearly articulates the profession's higher aims and social purposes. By joining the Society, SH&E professionals accept their duty to protect people, property and the environment and agree to do so with integrity, honor and dignity.

To further promote the professional standing of its members and to advance the public dialogue on occupational safety and health issues, the Society supports critical SH&E legislation, provides expert testimony to Congress, and monitors and responds to government activities to ensure that SH&E legislation is based on sound science, good data and available technology. ASSE also shares members' expertise and guidance through alliances with agencies such as NIOSH and OSHA.

### Providing for the Future

With an eye toward the future of the profession, ASSE works with affiliated groups to establish safety curricula for associate, baccalaureate and master degree programs in safety. The Society has also supported efforts to develop doctoral degree programs in safety and continues to pursue avenues for incorporating SH&E education into business, engineering and related curricula.

Such initiatives are vital to the profession's continued growth and success, as are efforts to recruit new professionals. To that end, ASSE and its chapters support more than 50 student sections across the U.S. Through these initiatives, the Society and its members help students transition into the professional world and eventually into the role of Society leaders. In the same vein, the Society founded and supports the ASSE Foundation, which awards scholarships, fellowships, internships and research grants, and provides funding to support professional development and the accreditation of academic programs.

### Growing the Profession's Influence

The sphere of influence does not end there. ASSE also works to inform the general public about the latest trends in and efforts of the occupational safety and health community. By working with the media and offering expertise on a wide range of topics through its diverse membership network, ASSE has become the leading voice of the SH&E profession. Promotion of the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health Week and development of resources and tools on topics such as young worker safety, campus fire protection, business continuity and emergency planning, and farm safety further establish ASSE and its member professionals as valuable resources.

By joining ASSE, SH&E professionals show that they recognize and understand the value of community, a collective voice and concerted action. Through and with ASSE, SH&E professionals position themselves as trusted experts who can influence legislators, employers, the media and anyone in a position to make decisions that affect the practice and profession of occupational safety, health and the environment.